

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board

September 18, 2008

MINUTES

“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”

Meeting Held at:

City Administration Building
202 C Street
Committee Room, 12th Floor
San Diego, California 92101

Mailing Address is:

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Director
202 C Street, MS 37C
San Diego, California 92101

Members Present

Wilbur Smith, Chair
Ginny Barnes
Bruce Brown
Rick Bussell
Vicki Granowitz
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds

Members Absent

Norman Greene
Roz King
Dan Mazzella
Evonne Schulze
Michael Stepner

City Staff Present

Stacey LoMedico
Kim Davies
Jim Winter
Charlie Daniels
Jo-Ann Novak

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JULY 17, 2008

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Bussell /Ms. Barnes

A motion was made by Ms. Bussell and seconded by Ms. Barnes to approve the July 17, 2008 meeting minutes. Vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 21, 2008

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Bussell /Ms. Barnes

A motion was made by Ms. Bussell and seconded by Ms. Barnes to approve the August 21, 2008 meeting minutes. Vote was unanimous with Mr. Brown and Ms. Puentes-Reynolds abstaining.

Mr. Smith requested that the Communications be moved before the Committee Reports.

COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to items not on the agenda. Each one will be limited to three minutes and is not debatable.)

La Jolla resident, Mary Coakley, invited the members to view newly installed “The Map” at the La Jolla Shores. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was held last Friday, September 12, 2008. She also thanked the Park and Recreation Department for their support in the Project. Ms. Coakley also commented she would like to see a Park and Recreation Board Member that represents La Jolla serving on the Board.

Bob Kuczewski requested specific reasons why he was banned from hang gliding at the Torrey Pines Gliderport. Ms. LoMedico will forward his concern to Real Estate Assets Department (READ) and provide the Board with any written correspondence from READ that is appropriate to send them. Ms. Davies reiterated to the Board it was not within their purview to address the issues stated by Mr. Kuczewski.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Area Committee Community Parks I

- Committee focused on the Department's Instruction on Field Allocation and the Independent Contractor Agreement.
- Ms. Barnes thank Mr. Smith for the re-appointment as the Chair to this committee and looks forward to working with Park and Recreation Department on other issues as it relates to policies and procedures.

Area Committee Community Parks II

- Ms. Puentes-Reynolds reported that the committee thanked Christy Haupt, Ms. LoMedico and the outstanding staff at the centers.
- The committee is concerned about the limited staff, limited recreation hours, vandalism, and about the need for new leadership. At some sites a major concern is the need for park recreation councils to obtain tax exempt status. The committee is requesting the Park and Recreation Department budget an independent auditor to help the volunteers with the process. Ms. LoMedico will attend the next meeting to discuss the issue. The deadline to become tax exempt is March 1, 2009. They may act as a park advisory group and not work with money, if they chose not to apply for a tax-exempt status. Ms. Barnes would like to work with councils and may re-introduce the questionnaire to see if councils would like to partner with another to create an umbrella a tax-exempt organization with each sub accounts.

Balboa Park Committee

- Ms. Granowitz reported on the first meeting for the Balboa Park 2015 Celebration, and a proposal from the Aerospace Museum to bring an Atlas Missile into the Balboa Park to be placed in the Palisades parking lot or on the lawn north of Hall of Champions. The process will require an Amendment to the Precise Plan.
- The rest of the meeting was related to the Balboa Park Study.

Design Review Committee – No report

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens' Advisory Committee

- Mr. Brown reported as a result of the July 17, 2008 meeting a planning workshop is scheduled for today to discuss Carmel Mountain Del Mar Mesa Preserve Resource Management Plan. The key issue is: are the trails available to different user groups.

Mission Bay Park Committee

- Mr. Bussell reported on the Tuesday, September 9, 2008 meeting.
- The committee received regular crime stats reports from Police and Lifeguard Departments. Captain Shelly Zimmerman will return in the fall to provide detail trending reports.
- A discussion on improvements to the design to the pump station at De Anza Cove followed. Work is to begin in March of 2009 and to be completed in 2010.
- Consultant Keith Merkel presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee on the depth of

- Mission Bay. There is a difference of opinion on whether to dredge or not.
- Proposition C will be an informational agenda item for the October meeting.
- California Coastal Clean-Up Day will take place on Saturday, September 20, 2008.

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee – No report

Tecolote Canyon Citizens' Advisory Committee

- Mr. Bussell reported on the discussion of University of California San Diego Landscape Plan. Primary concern was regarding what plant species will be planted around the rim of the canyon.
- Keith Corey, Council District staff representative reported they have received a large number of calls regarding coyotes attacking dogs and cats in the area. This is in large part due to property owners developing their land adjacent to the canyon area.
- Committee is concerned about a blight attacking the Lemonade Berry trees. The County of San Diego requested a Lemonade Berry to study.
- Mr. Bussell invited the members to attend the 2008 Baskets and Botany event at the Tecolote Nature Center Saturday, October 11, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE – None

Consent At this time the Board may consider adoption of one or more items on the adoption agenda as “Consent” items. – None

ACTION ITEMS – None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Mr. Smith requested innovated ideas on dealing with the water crisis.
- Barrio Logan Community Plan update is in process and Lara Gates of City Planning and Community Investment Department is requesting a representative from the Park and Recreation Board to attend two public meetings, one on September 30, and the other on October 14, 2008 for their input on the plan. Ms. LoMedico will send this request to all members and they may contact Lara Gates directly if interested.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Ms. LoMedico reported on the Groundbreaking of Windansea Parking Lot Improvements, Ridgewood Playgrounds Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony, and the unveiling of “The Map” Project in La Jolla.
- She invited all to attend the Haunted Trail Pre-Opening Event on Thursday, September 25, 2008 located at Marston Point in Balboa Park.
- Staff attended an outreach and recruitment at San Diego State University Intern Night. There were several college students who were interested in non-paying internships.
- San Diego County Health Department continues to test the water at Mission Bay due to the increase bacteria levels.
- The Mission Bay Thunderboats (San Diego Bay Fair) will begin on Friday, September 19, 2008.
- On September 11, 2008 the American Public Works awarded their 2008 Public Works Awards. Several were park projects: Teralta Park, Torrey Pines Golf Course Improvements, Mission Trails Regional Park Old Historic Dam Improvements, and the median/street improvements in the La Jolla Bird Rock area. Ms. LoMedico thanked the Engineering and Capital Improvements Department and the Management Assets Division of Park and Recreation Department for their hard work.
- Ms. LoMedico will contact Mr. Coker of Centre City Development Corporation for an update on

Centre City Development Corporation park projects.

- Water Department is working on the drought ordinance and it is due to go to City Council before January. Ms. LoMedico will keep the Park and Recreation Board Members updated on the ordinance and will invite a Water Department staff to provide an overview of the Water Conservation Program at an upcoming Board meeting.

Ms. Granowitz requested that Item 202 to be heard prior to Item 201. Mr. Smith agreed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 202. Landscape Design Standards for City Parks

Charlie Daniels, Project Designer, Park and Recreation Department presented a comprehensive update of the landscape design standards for City parks.

Mr. Daniels provided the following link to Consultant's Guide to Park Design and Development: <http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/consultantguide.shtml>

Public Comment – None

There were many questions and comments from the Board members, including but not limited to:

- The use of drought tolerant plants and trees – (the Park and Recreation Department will have discussions with the Water and City Planning and Community Investments Departments on the subject and Council Policy 200-14.)
- Utilize reclaimed water – (New parks north of Interstate 8 must be designed to take reclaimed water. Nobel Community Park and the Library are on reclaimed water. Otay is the only area south of Interstate 8 that has been projected for reclaimed water.)
- Request solar power and various other types of conservations be included in these discussion and include these policies in Park and Recreation Department policies.
- Write a letter to the Planning Commission requesting that the community planning groups include park design before communities are developed.
- Create a master control system for irrigation system.
- Provide training to the public to utilize the General Development Plan
- Optimize volunteers to incorporate native plants into the landscape and educate other communities in drought resistant plants.
- Invite Ms. Vicki Estrada, Estrada Land Planning, to discuss issues on crime prevention in our parks.
- Parks should be designed by Park and Recreation Department, and not be dictated by another department such as the Police Department.
- It was requested to have a couple of evening meetings for public on subjects such as water conservation and to invite members of Community Parks I and Community Parks II Committees.

Ms. LoMedico thanked her two Management Assets staff who make up half of the Management Assets staff for the second largest municipal park system in the country.

Item 201. Update on the Review of the Study “The Soul of San Diego: Keeping Balboa Park Magnificent in its Second Century

Ms. Granowitz, Chair of Balboa Park Committee presented an overview of the Balboa Park Study and provided a packet that included the study. The committee is an advisory committee and was requested to answer three questions:

1. Can the City of San Diego provide the necessary financial support for Balboa Park in the future?
2. Even if it can, should it do so?
3. If it wishes to expand management and governance of the park, what are the alternatives for it to do so?

Public Comment – None

The Park and Recreation Board members had the following comments:

- Board Members thanked Ms. Granowitz for her dedication and hard work on this project.
- Recommend 90% of donations go to the entities and 10% to the General Fund for additional impacts.
- Requested periodical updates.

WORKSHOP

STANDING UPDATES

Business Process Re-Engineering (BPR) Update – No Update

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: **Thursday, October 16, 2008, 2:00 p.m.**

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Submitted by,

Stacey LoMedico,
Park and Recreation Director